

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 290632 TOSEC 310158

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PEKING, ASUNCION,
BONN, BRIDGETOWN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, GUATEMALA,
THE HAGUE, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, MONTEVIDEO, MOSCOW, PARIS,
ROME, SANTIAGO, SANTO DOMINGO, SINGAPORE, TEGUCIGALPA,
TEL AVIV, TOKYO, FROM USUN NOV 27:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5683

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, UNSC, VN
SUBJ: 31ST UNGA: PLENARY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON VIETNAM

REFS: A) USUN 5629 (NOTAL), B) USUN 5581 (NOTAL)
C) USUN 5682 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: UNGA ON NOVEMBER 26 ADOPTED DRAFT RESOLUTION (REF
B) ON VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP ISSUE. THE VOTE WAS 124 - 1(US) - 3
(FRG, ISRAEL, UK). ABSENTEES INCLUDED CHILE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
GRENADA, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY.
END SUMMARY.

2. ADDITIONA COSPONSORS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ANNOUNCED
NOVEMBER 26 WERE AFGHANISTAN, CAMEROON, CAPE VERDE, CYPRUS, IVORY
COAST, KUWAIT, LESOTHO, MALAYSIA, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NEPAL,
RWANDA, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SIERRA LEONE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO,
UPPER VOLTA, AND YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. THIS BROUGHT TOTAL OF
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COSPONSORS TO OVER 80.

3. SPEAKERS IN DEBATE (WHICH EXTENDED THROUGHOUT MORNING AS WELL AS GREATER PART OF AFTERNOON SESSIONS) WERE VIETNAM, SRI LANKA, USSR, POLAND, INDIA, HUNGARY, CHINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, YUGOSLAVIA, GDR, LAOS, MONGOLIA, BULGARIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE, SINGAPORE, ALBANIA, BYELORUSSIA, FRANCE, CUBA, SYRIA, SOMALIA, MAURITIUS, AND LIBYA. THE US (GOV. SCRANTON) AND UK (AMB. MURRAY) GAVE EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE BEFORE THE VOTE. TEXTS OF US AND UK STATEMENTS IN REC C.

4. IN ITS EXPLANATION OF VOTE, UK EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP BUT DISAGREED WITH LANGUAGE IN DRAFT RES CRITICIZING ACTION OF MEMBER STATE IN ANOTHER PRINCIPAL UN ORGAN. UK HAD MADE STRONG EFFORT NOVEMBER 25 AND 26 TO GET AMENDMENT OF DRAFT RES, SPECIFICALLY, REMOVAL OF EXPRESSION OF "DEEP REGRET AND CONCERN" OVER US VETO OF VIETNAM'S ADMISSION IN SECURITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 15. FRENCH, AT BRITISH REQUEST, APPROACHED VIETNAMESE IN NEW YORK ON THIS AND VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO REPLACEMENT OF "EXPRESSING DEEP REGRET AND CONCERN" BY "NOTING". UK, HOWEVER, FOUND NONALIGNED COSPONSORS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THIS AMENDMENT.

5. ABSENCES OF NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES (PARA 1 ABOVE) REFLECTED US-UK APPROACHES REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF ABSTENTION.

6. NUMBER OF EC-9 MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO UK AND FRG REPORTEDLY CAME CLOSE TO ABSTENTIONS BUT IN THE END WENT ALONG WITH RES.

7. ISRAELIS EXPLAINED THEIR ABSTENTION TO US AS REFLECTING RECOGNITION OF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AS WELL AS ISRAEL'S CONCERN OVER ITS OWN MIAS.

8. MOST OF STATEMENTS WERE ALONG PREDICTABLE LINES WITH CUBA (AMB. ALACRON) SETTING PACE FOR VITUPERATION. SINGAPORE (AMB. KOH) TOOK ORIGINAL LINE BY STRESSING SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSALITY AND AT SAME TIME OPPOSITION TO EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

9. THERE WAS COMMENT AROUND THE HALL, WITH REGARD TO FRANCE IN PARTICULAR, THE COSPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTION BY CONFIDENTIAL

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CHINA, FRANCE, AND USSR IMPLIED CHALLENGE OF VETO POWER BY PERMANENT MEMBERS THEMSELVES.

10. US EXPLANATION OF VOTE SAID IN PART: "THE UNITED STATES WILL VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/31/L.21 NOT BECAUSE WE OBJECT IN ANY WAY IN PRINCIPLE TO THE ISSUE OF VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP BEING DISCUSSED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE DO OBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RESOLUTION'S DIRECTLY CITING

FOR CRITICISM THE VOTE BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION TO VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP. THE SECURITY
COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY CONSIDERED VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP. THE
SECURITY COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY CONSIDERED VIETMAN'S MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION. THE REASONS MY GOVERNMENT OPPOSED THAT APPLICATION
ARE A MATTER OF RECORD AND ARE VERY CLEAR." SCRANTON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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